

Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force

Funding and Incentives Work Group

Meeting Notes

March 17, 2008

Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District Office -- York, Nebraska

The first funding and incentive work group of the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force met on March 17, 2008 with members present:

Mike Arps, Bob Bettger, Jeff Hoffman, & Gloria Erickson

The work group has been charged with the following Actions:

1. Determine what funding is needed to provide incentives, support and assistance to accelerate control, removal and management efforts where there are public benefits.
2. Determine the potential federal, state and local sources of funding of incentive programs.
3. Determine funding needs noxious weed program assistance.
4. Make recommendations as to state and other funding needs.

An open discussion was held on the above action items. The work group was unable to determine what funding needs are necessary to provide incentives to riparian land owners. Since there are different methods of control and the costs of the control can vary the group will rely on some of the actions of the other work groups as to best methods of control and what the control methods cost.

As for potential federal, state, and local sources of funding, the group came up with the following:

Federal: NRCS- EQUIP, Conservation Security Program-CSP, EQUIP Special, US Fish & Wildlife Service Partners Program,

State: The Nature Conservancy, Nebraska Game & Parks Habitat Partners, The Nebraska Environmental Trust, Pulling Together Grant

Local: NRD's, RCD

Two items of note, one is that some of the federal programs rely on passage of the farm bill and two, the Nebraska Environmental Trust funds can not be used to fund mandates.

The funding and incentives work group encourages input from the task force and will continue to work on the action items assigned. We are requesting participation from others to participate in our group.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Arps
Chairman